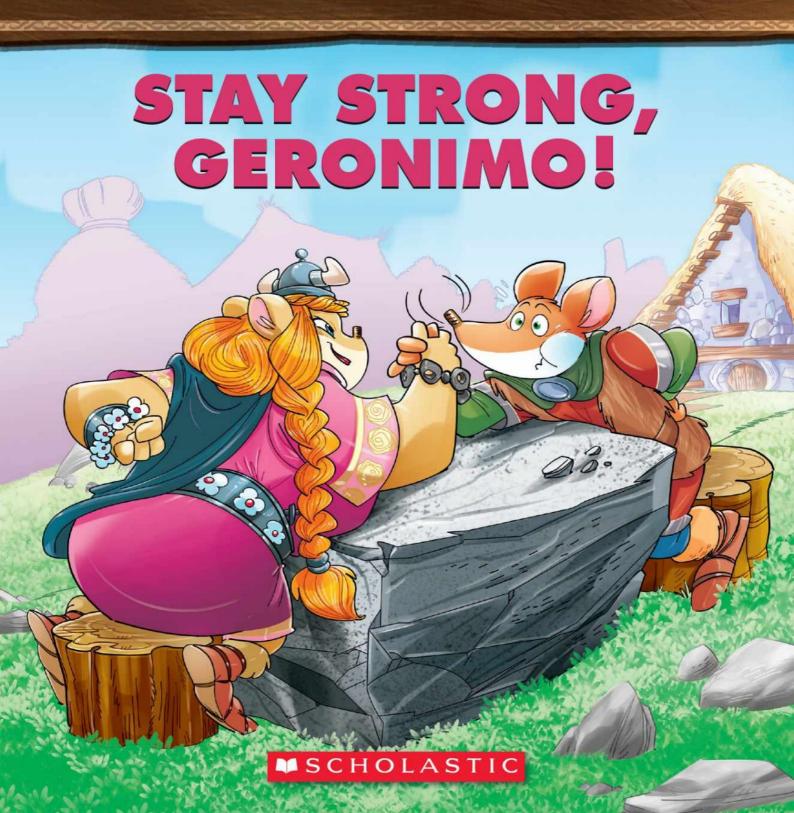
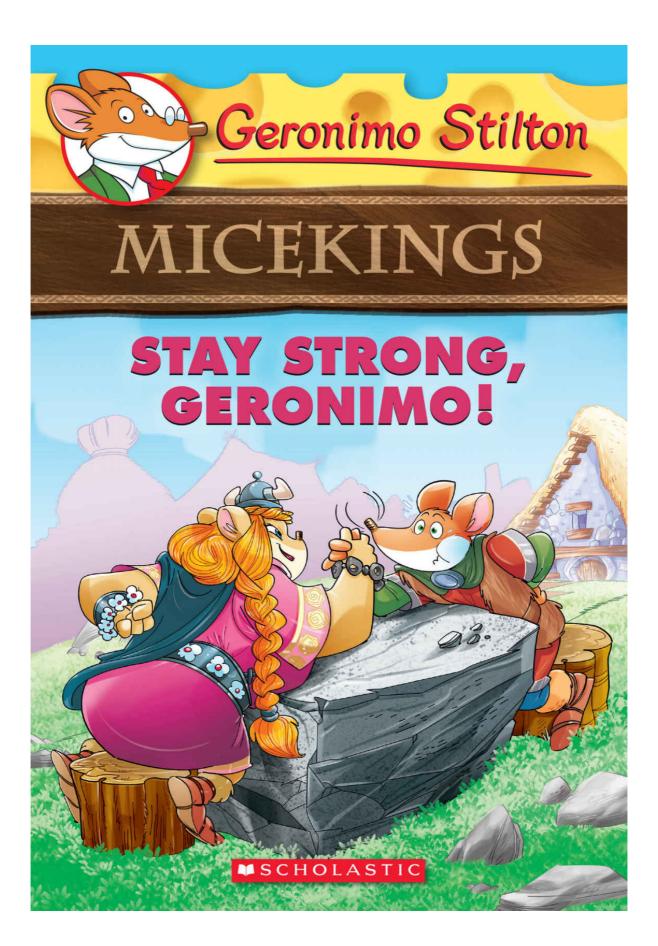


MICEKINGS





WELCOME TO THE ANCIENT FAR NORTH . . . AND THE WORLD OF THE MICEKINGS!

WHERE THEY LIVE: Miceking Island

CAPITAL: Mouseborg, home of the Stiltonord family

OTHER VILLAGES: Oofadale, village of the Oofa Oofas, and Feargard,

village of the vilekings

CLIMATE: Cold, cold, cold, especially when the icy north wind blows!

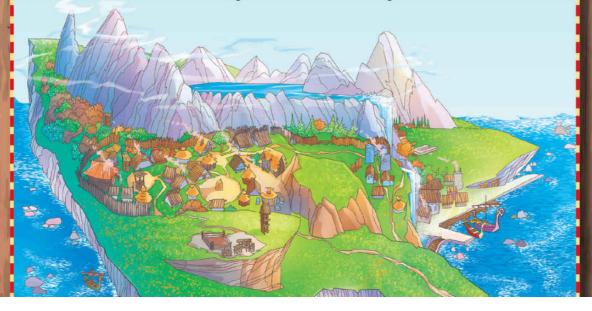
TYPICAL FOOD: Gloog, a superstinky but fabumouse stew. The secret recipe is closely guarded by the wife of the miceking chief.

NATIONAL DRINK: Finnbrew, made of equal parts codfish juice and herring juice, with a splash of squid ink

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION: The drekar, a light but very fast ship **GREATEST HONOR:** The miceking helmet. It is only earned when a mouse performs an act of courage or wins a Miceking Challenge.

UNIT OF MEASUREMENT: A mouseking tail (full tail, half tail, third tail, quarter tail)

ENEMIES: The terrible dragons who live in Beastgard

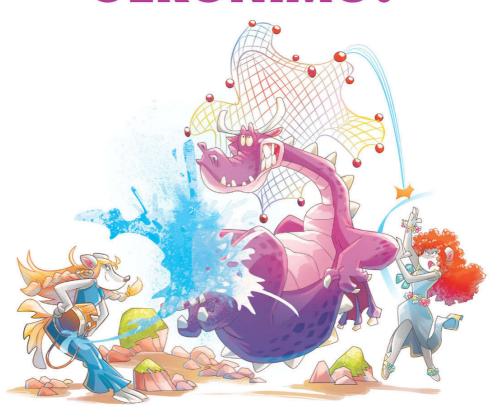






Geronimo Stilton

MICEKINGS STAY STRONG, GERONIMO!



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DRAGON ALERT!

It was a **splendid** fall morning in Mouseborg, the capital of Miceking Island. The **Golorful** leaves waved in the gentle breeze.

Most micekings are **WARRIORS**, but I don't like fighting. I decided to sneak away for a walk in the woods. There, I would find **inspiration** in nature, and —

Sorry, I haven't introduced myself! My name is **GERONIMO STILTONORD**, and I am a

mouseking and a

SCHOLAR.

That morning, I was a hungry



DRAGON ALERT!



scholar! I filled my backpack

with **ene** small barrel of fjordberry juice, **two** loaves of bread, and



At the last minute, I added cheese wheel number FOUR. Physical exercise gives me a big appetite!

I whistled as I headed toward the woods. I strolled until I found myself in a silent GLEARING surrounded by nature.

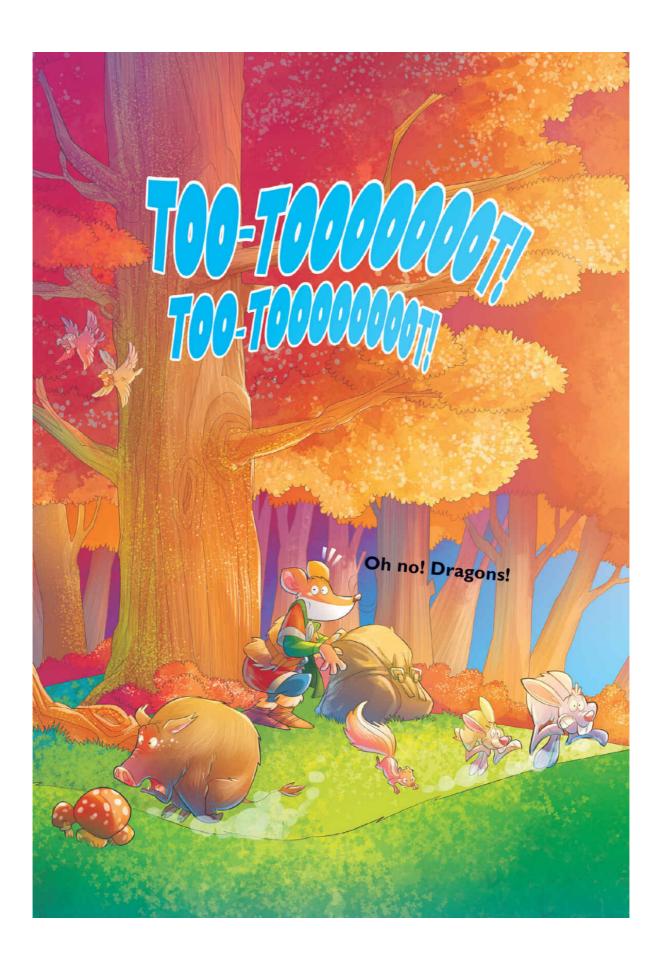
But before I could unpack my picnic, the sound of a horn rose up from Three Lookouts Cliff.



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Squeak! It was the dragon alarm!







THE SHIELD MOUSELET MEGA CHALLENGE

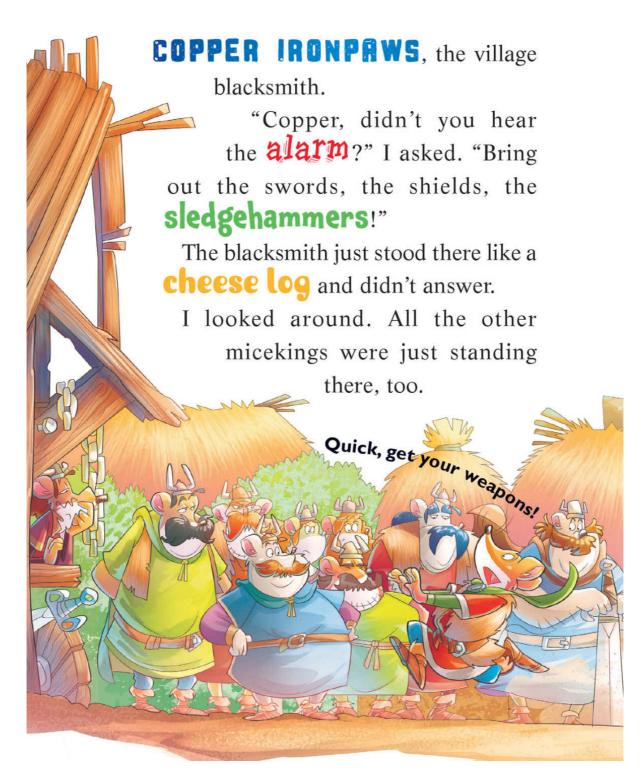
When the dragon alarm sounded, everyone in the village was supposed to run to face the dragons. Did I mention that the dragons are **FIERCE** and terrible and always starving for **fresh** miceking meat?

I ran back through the woods and record miceking speed. When I arrived at the Great Stone Square, the other micekings were already there.

"Draaagons" I yelled.

Oddly, nobody else was yelling. Or running for the catapults. I ran over to





THE SHIELD MOUSELET MEGA CHALLENGE



"Holey cheese!" I shouted. "Why isn't anybody getting ready to **fight** the dragons?"

Nobody answered me.

"What is **WRONG** with you rodents?" I asked.

Then **SYEN** THE SHOUTER, our village leader, marched up to me.

"Geronimo, you smarty-mouseking!" he shouted. (He always **SHQUTS**. How do you think he got his name?) "Here you are at last!"

"Sven! The d-d-d-dragons!" I stuttered.

He smacked my back with his massive paw. "There aren't any dragons, you mollusk! We sounded the alarm to get you out of your

"I wasn't hiding," I protested.





competition?" I asked.

"Horns and thorns, don't be a **CHEESEHEAD!**Just go sit in your spot at the judges' table.
That's an order!" Sven shouted.

"SO SAYS SVEN THE SHOUTER!"

the other micekings yelled.

I sighed. So much for my picnic!

Only then did I notice that a **stage** had been built in the village square. It was decorated **festively**. But, by my whiskers, I couldn't think of what competition

THE SHIELD MOUSELET MEGA CHALLENGE

could be happening that day.

- determine the mouseking with the thickest beard had been a few weeks earlier.
- The **Stinky Codfish Festival** was always held the first week of spring.
- The Miceking Games, which attracted micekings from all over the island, were planned for the summer.
 - So . . . this must be the **Shield Mouselet Mega Challenge**! Female warrior micekings
 are known as Shield Mouselets. Each fall,
 they compete to see who is the **BRAVEST**, **Strongest**, and **smartest**.

Everyone loved the challenge — except me! Sven always made me judge, and it always got me in **BIG TROUBLE**.

After I took my seat, my cousin Trap slid into the chair next to me.



THE SHIELD MOUSELET MEGA CHALLENGE

"Trap, are you on the judges' panel, too?" I asked.

He chuckled. "Of course! A judge has to understand Course, Strength, and infelligence. And since I am brave, strong, and smart, I'll be the PERFECT judge!"

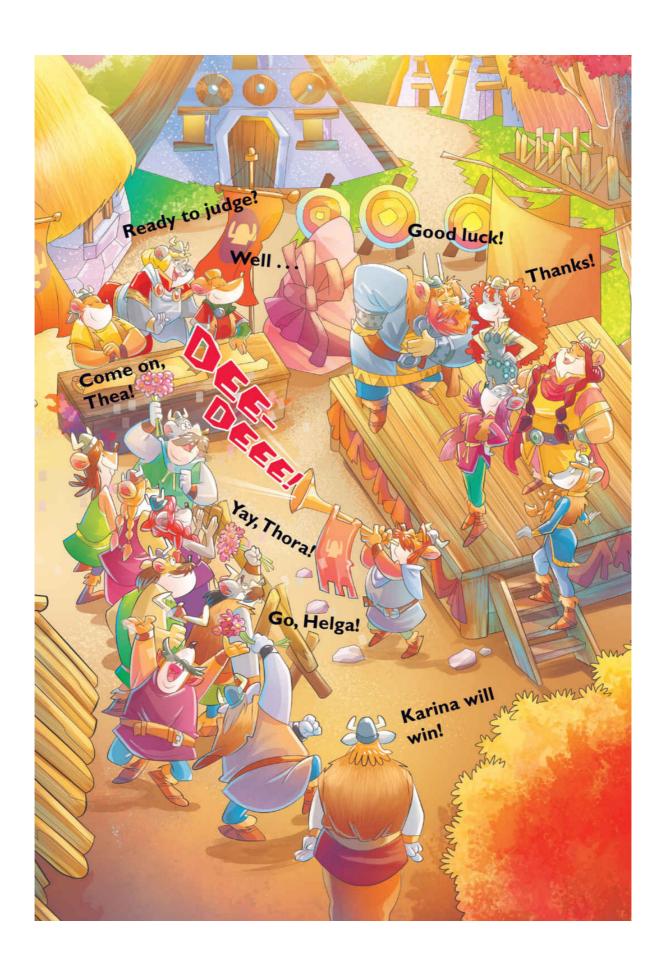
We heard an amused laugh behind us and turned to see a large female mouseking: RATILDE. "If anyone can judge the COURAGE of a mouseking, it's me!" she boasted as she sat down in the third judge's chair.

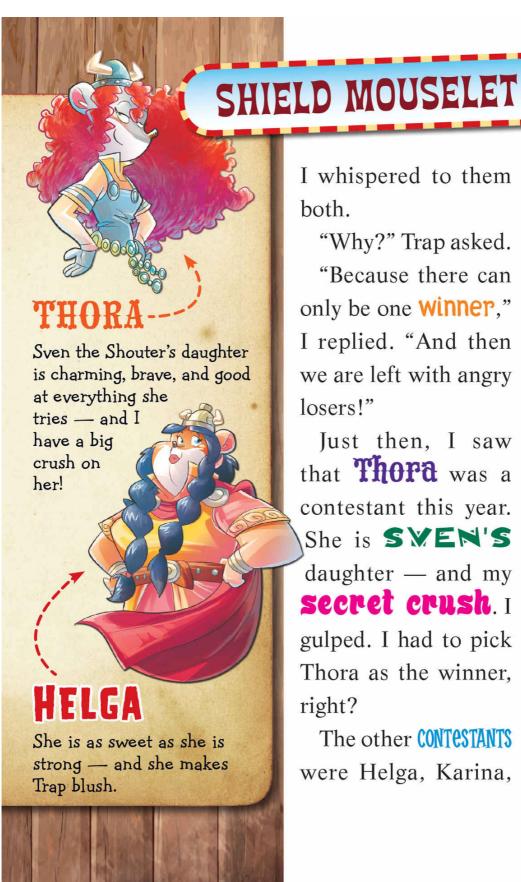
Trap and I nodded. Ratilde was captain of the ship **Beauty of the Seas**, and there wasn't a single mouseking sailor who was **BRAYER** than her.*

"We all need courage to judge this contest,"

* To read more about Ratilde, check out my adventure *The Famouse Fjord Race*!







I whispered to them both.

"Why?" Trap asked.

"Because there can only be one Winner," I replied. "And then we are left with angry losers!"

Just then, I saw that Thora was a contestant this year. She is SYEN'S daughter — and my secret crush. I gulped. I had to pick Thora as the winner, right?

The other **CONTESTANTS** were Helga, Karina,



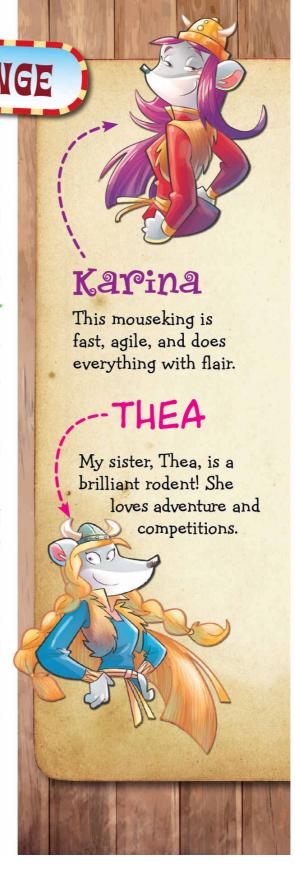
and my sister, Thea.

I GULPED again.
How could I vote against Helga, who is so STRONG? Or Karina, the FASTEST mouseking around? Or my own talented sister, Thea?

I could smell trouble already . . . but then I smelled something else. Something very strong.

I **Sniffed** the air. "What is that strange stench?" I asked.

Ratilde snorted and passed me a clothespin



THE SHIELD MOUSELET MEGA CHALLENGE



to put on my nose. "Here you go, you wimpy mouseking!" she said.

Then I saw that the was coming from the braided sash that would be awarded to the winning Shield Mouselet. It was made out of hot peppers! Rotten ricotta, those peppers had such a STRONG SCENT that they were making my eyes water!

Ratilde nudged me. "Look, smarty-mouseking, even Trap has **WATERY** eyes."



"It's not the peppers,"
Trap said.

Then I noticed that Helga was Smiling at him. My big cousin has such a **tender** heart!

Logi Peppers

Logi peppers are very strong hot peppers that are used in our famouse miceking hot pepper sauce, the hottest sauce there is! These peppers have a much, much, much stronger smell than even stinky miceking garlic.





Begin the Mega Challenges!

Sven the Shouter climbed onto the stage. "Citizens of Mouseborg, hear me!" he shouted. "Only the BRAVEST, Strongest, and Smartest contestant will win the Shield Mouselet Mega Challenge!"

"SO SAVS SVEN THE SHOUTER!"

the crowd cheered.

Sven raised his paw in the air. "Let the competition begin!"

The first event was the **shell** challenge. Each contestant had to throw a RAZOR-SHARP shell at a straw target.



SHIVERING SQUIDS!

Those shells had points as sharp as DRAGONS' CLAWS.

Thea's shell passed so close to me that it trimmed the ends of my whiskers! But she hit the bull's-eye and won the contest.

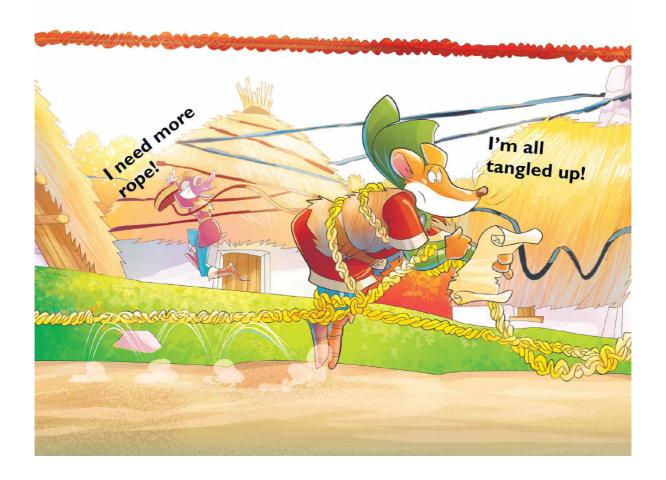




The second event was the **Rope challenge**. Miceking ships need good, strong ropes

Miceking ships need good, strong ropes to set their powerful sails. The contestants had to quickly braid ropes to see who could make the longest rope at the fastest **SPEED**.

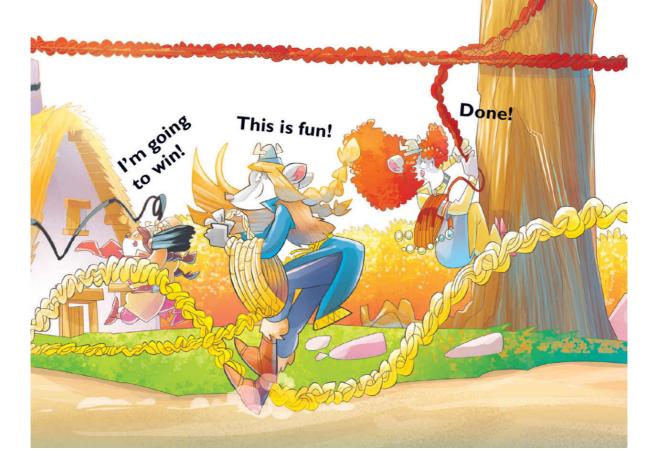
My job was to measure to see who braided





Finally, I untangled myself and measured the long braids. And the WINNER of the rope challenge

was . . .





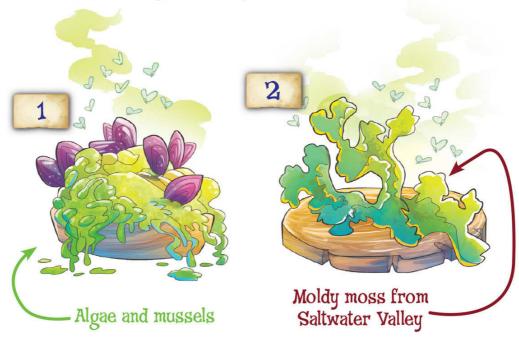


... Karina! Her rope was three hundred tails long!

Next up was the cooking challenge.

Every mouseking worth his or her helmet needs to know how to make **hearty** food out of whatever is handy. Miceking food has to be **delicious** and **nutritious** enough to build big miceking muscles!

"This is my favorite challenge," Trap said, rubbing his belly.





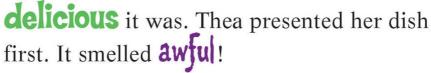
The contestants had to COOK a dish out of these common ingredients:

- 1 Algae and mussels
- Moldy MOSS from Saltwater Valley
- 3 100-year-old smoked HERRING
- Rancid CODFISH fat
- 5 Logi pepper **cheese**

The three judges had to **taste** each dish and rate it on how **nutritious** and







Now, I know my sister well. She is brave, athletic, and great with animals. But she is a **terrible** cook!

"Um, I'm **not hungry**," I said, pushing it away.

Thea frowned. "Are you going to judge it or not, Geronimo?"

Trap slapped my back.

Yuck! How
gross!

"Eat up, Cousin! What
are you afraid of?"

I had to eat the
dish in order to
fairly judge
the contest.



I took one bite of deep-fried aged herring in **stinky cheese sauce** and swallowed.

My stomach went was and pewn, went and pewn, went and pewn!

"You look a little green, Geronimo," Trap remarked. "Did you eat too much? No problem. Ratilde and I will take care of the rest."

I was very **lucky** that Trap and Ratilde had **Cast-iPON** stomachs! They declared **Thora** the winner. I wanted to congratulate her, but I couldn't.

My stemach hurt se much . . .

I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT TOSS MY CHEESEI





So, Who Is the Winner?

The next event was the **cauldron challenge**, a test of **strength** and **balance**. Each Shield Mouselet had to perform a complicated dance while balancing a heavy cauldron full of **swamp** water on her head.



So, Who Is the Winner?



We TWIRLED

and twirled in circles. I got dizzy and fell against Thea... BAM!

I knocked into the cauldron, and all the swamp water dumped on my

head!



HELGA kept the cauldron on her head the longest, and she **Wor** the challenge.





So, Who Is the Winner?

5

The four contestants were tied. Everything depended on the final event: the CAMOUFLAGE CHALLENGE. Camouflage is an important skill when facing an ENEMY or hiding from miceking-eating dragons. For this event, the Shield Mouselets had to create an outfit that would work as camouflage in the 66661.

Thora dove into the sea and found a big

shell for her outfit.

The four company

The four contestants put together their camouflage and stood onstage. Everyone cheered for them loudly.

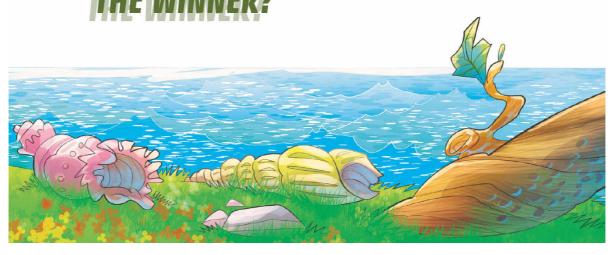


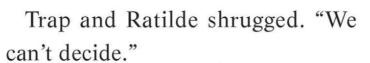
"GO, THEA!" "THORA IS THE BEST!" "HOORAY FOR KARINA!" "HELGA SHOULD WIN!"

"This is **Fantastic** camouflage!" Trap said. "It will be tough to pick a winner."

Trap was right! All four contestants had done a great job. I wanted to vote for **Thora**, my crush, but how could I choose her when the others looked just as good?

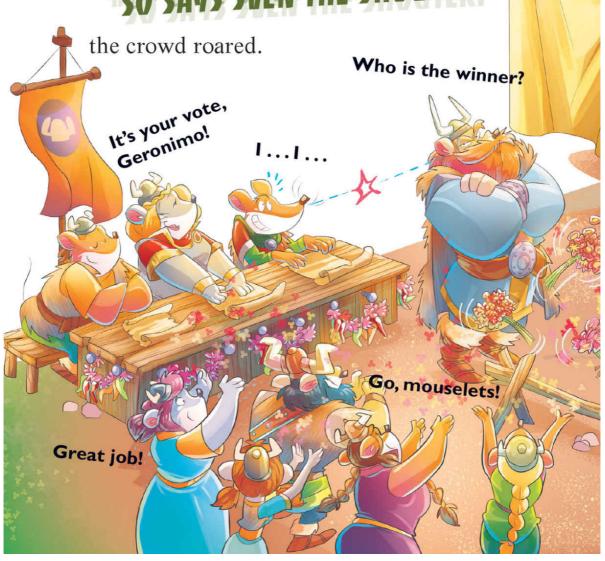
Sven marched up to us. "\$0, WHO IS

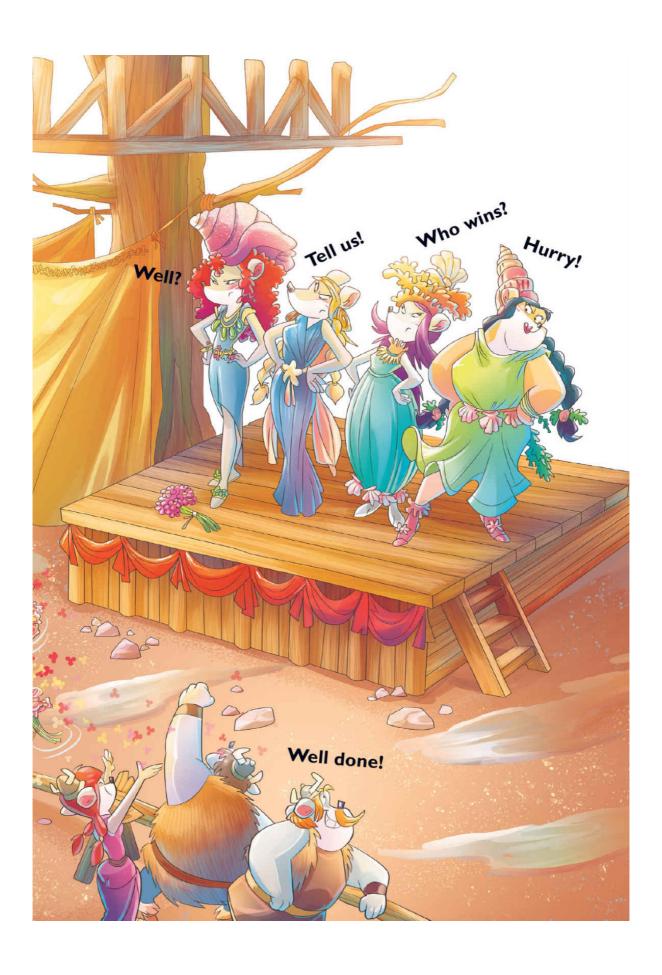




"Then it's up to **YOU**, Geronimo!" Sven shouted.

"SO SAYS SVEN THE SHOUTER!"







HIDING FROM THE DRAGONS

All the contestants **CLARED** at me, waiting for me to name the winner. Holey cheese, how could I choose?

So I just sat there, as quiet as a clam. The micekings quickly got annoyed.

"Who wins the Mega Challenge?"
"YEAH, WHICH SHIELD MOUSELET WINS?"

I began to stutter. "Well . . . I-I-I don't know . . . m-m-maybe . . . "

"Hurry up and decide, Geronimo!" Sven thundered, shaking his paw.



HIDING FROM THE DRAGONS



Just then the dragon alarm sounded.

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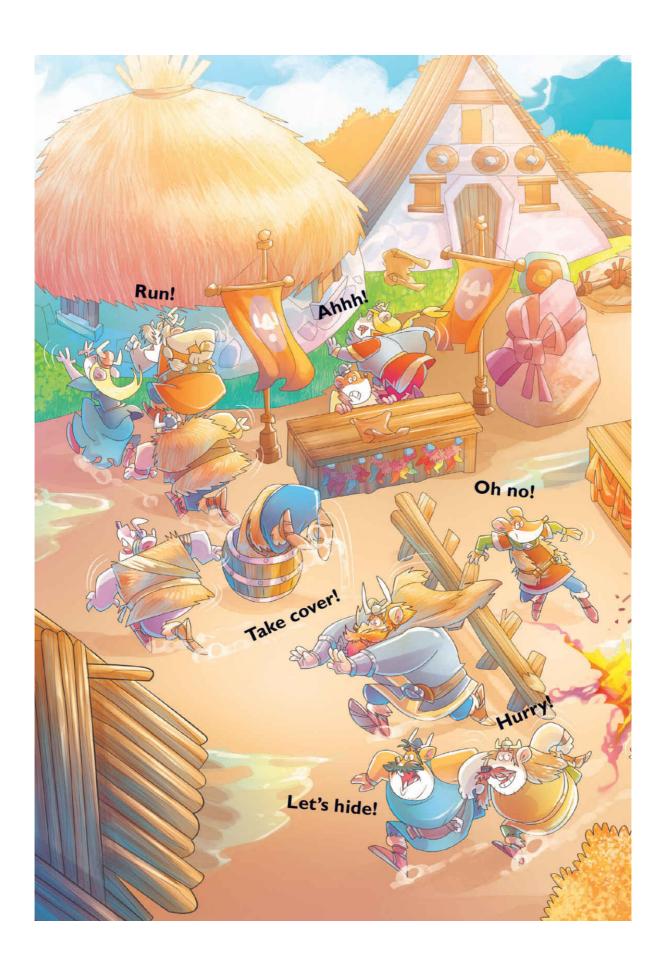
A moment later, three **dragons** appeared in the sky, breathing fire. They **SWOOPEd** down over the village.

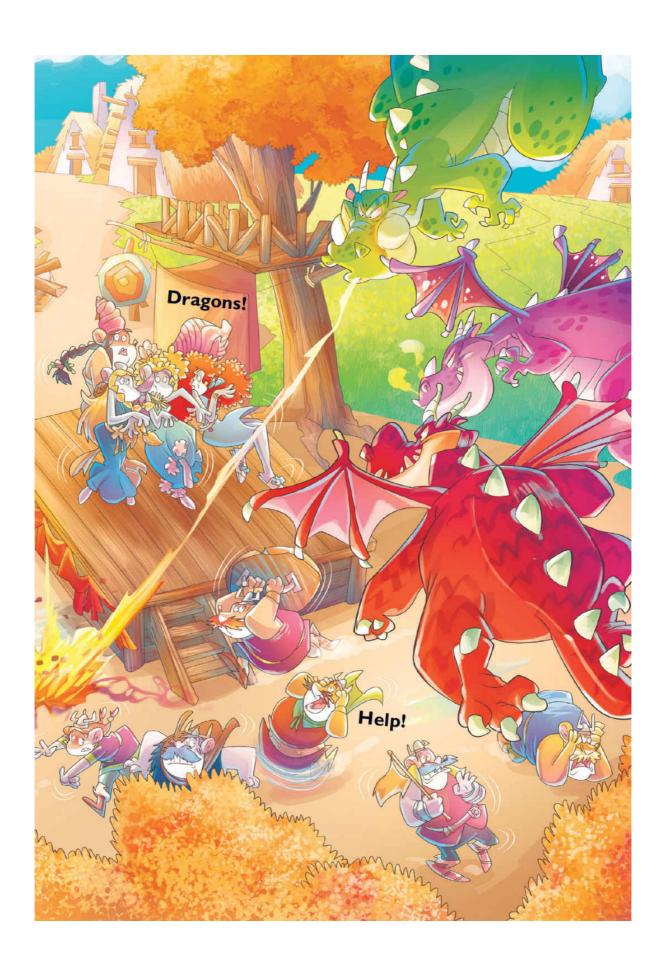
"Do you **\$\$\$**ee what I **\$\$\$**ee?" asked the first dragon.

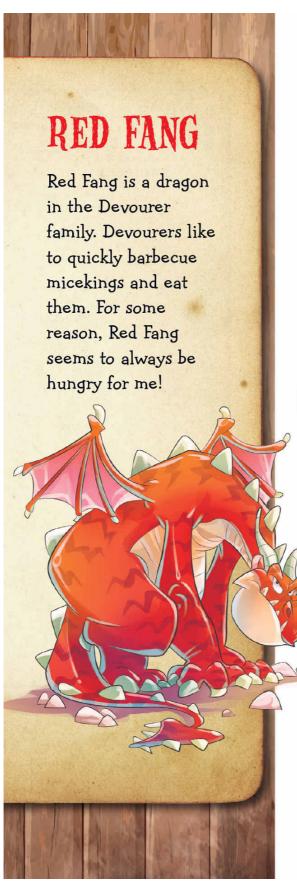
"I **\$\$\$**ee a bunch of fresh meat, Red Fang," answered the second dragon. "How about you, **\$\$\$**lither?"

"Me too, Broiler," said the third. "They sseem juicy! Let's eat them up fassst!"

Red Fang, the **PCD** dragon, landed right next to me and **Snapped** at my tail. "What ta**sss**ty miceking flesh! It'**sss** mine! I **sss**aw it fir**sss**t!"







I ran away and **ducked** behind the straw target.

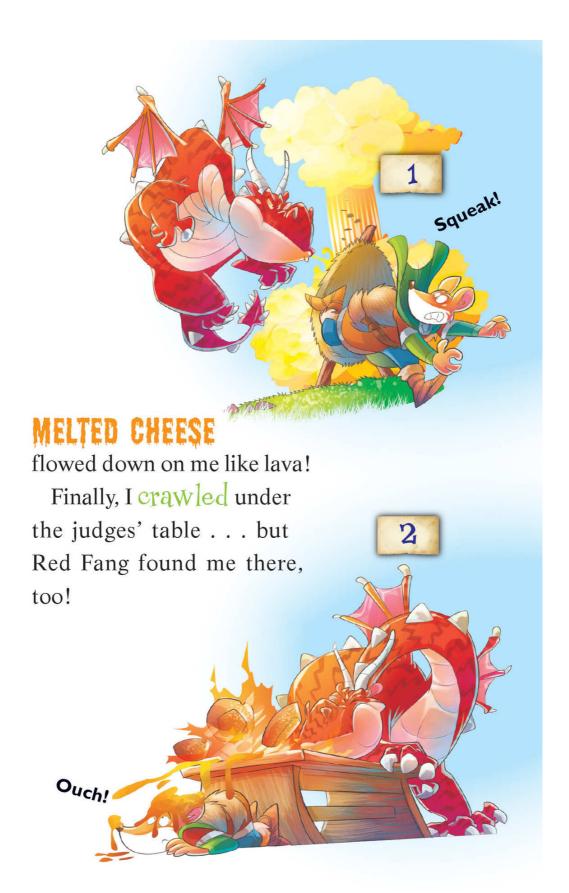
"S\$\$o you want to play hide-and-\$\$\$eek, little mou\$\$\$eking?" Red Fang asked.

🔟 WHOOSH!

He shot **FLAMES** at the target, reducing it to ashes and revealing my hiding place!
So I **DASHED**under the cooking challenge table, taking refuge there.

2 WHOOSH!

Red Fang unleashed his hot breath, and





HIDING FROM THE DRAGONS



He **Spiffed** the air, noticing the smell of the **Logi pepper** garland strung across the table. Then he smiled.

"What luck!" he cried. "With a \$\$\$ingle



HIDING FROM THE DRAGONS



flame, I'll have miceking meat with roasssted ssspicy peppersss!"

He inhaled, getting ready to **BLAST** me with flames again.

This was it. I was going to be Cocked, fried, Done!
"HEEEELQ!" I screamed. "I don't want

to become dinner for a dragon!"



"Load the catapults! **RELEASE!**" Sven the Shouter commanded.

Just in time, something **slimy** hit Red Fang's head.

PLOP! PLOP! PLOP!

Bales of **MUD** mixed with hay rained down on the three dragons.

Slither swallowed one by mistake and spit

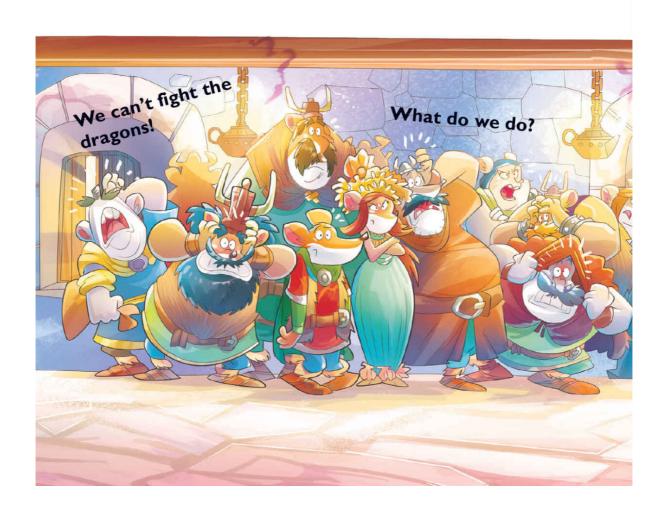






"Gather around, **MICEKINGS!**" Sven the Shouter yelled. "We must prepare for —" **BONK!** His wife, Mousehilde, **BOPPED** him on the head with her rolling pin.

"This is YOUR FAULT!" she said. "I told you to leave one mouseking guarding the catapults during the competition. That





is how the **dragons** were able to get so close to us!"

The villagers were **SCared**.

"What do we do now, **BRAVE** Sven?" one rodent asked.

"Yes, courageous Sven, we don't have much time," said another.





Thora spoke up. "The dragons will be returning soon. We must organize our defense."

Sven nodded. "Well said, Thora. All the micekings must prepare for BATTLE! Copper, bring out the weapons."

Then Sven looked at me, and I tiptoed backward. I had a had feeling Come with me!

all of a sudden.

"You come with me, smarty-mouseking," he said, grabbing me by the shoulders.

"Who? M-m-me?" I stuttered.

"Yes!" Sven replied. "We will go find Loki Longsight, the village soothsayer, and we'll ask



for advice. He can look in his book of **Dragon**. Lore and Legends and tell us the best way to defeat them."

It wasn't a bad idea, actually. Sven and I headed to the soothsayer's **CAVE**, followed by all the micekings in the village.



Sven stopped in front of the cave door. "LOK! LONGSIGHT, OPEN UP!" he shouted.

"Sven the Shouter commands you!"

The micekings all cried out,

"SO SAYS SVEN THE SHOUTER!"

But Loki didn't answer.

Sven shouted even louder. "Hey, open up, soothsayer!"

I tugged on Sven's cloak. "Chief, the door to the cave is half-open," I told him.

"Why didn't you say that in the first place, blubber brain?" Sven asked. "Quick, get in there!"







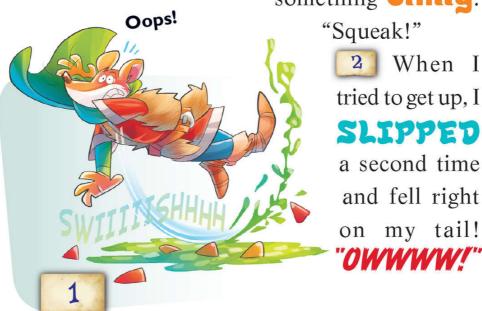
I slowly pushed open the door. "L-Łoki, are you there?" I asked.

Loki still didn't answer.

"Are you waiting for **groundhogs** to wake from their hibernation, smarty-mouseking? I said get in there!" Sven barked.

I stepped inside the cave, but I didn't see Loki. "He's not here!" I said.

I I back out and slipped on something slimy.





3 I **Slid** right up to

Sven's feet. He stared at me. "What do you

mean he's NOT

HERE? Where is

he, then?"

I had no idea!

"I don't know!" I replied. "He didn't leave a note."

Thea, meanwhile, was examining the

Stinky Slime

I had stepped on.











announced.

Sven sniffed it himself. "You're right! And I see some **RED**

-- SCALES in there!"

"Crusty codfish!" I cried. "That scale belongs to RED FANG, the dragon who wants to roast and eat me! He must have taken Loki Longsight!"

"There's no time to waste!" Sven shouted, pumping his paw in the air. "We must FIND quickly!"

All the micekings began to **volunteer** for the mission.

"CHOOSE ME, BRAVE LEADER!"





"I WILL GO! I'M THE STRONGEST!"

"PICK ME! I AM NOT AFRAID OF DRAGONS!"

Sven shook his head. "Since **GERONIMO** knows all about Red Fang, I will send him to find Loki Longsight."

"B-b-but . . . " I stammered.

Trap **BOLDLY** stepped forward. "I will go with Geronimo. Don't worry, Chief! We won't **disappoint** you!"

Sven nodded. "Well said, Trap! Bring the soothsayer back to Mouseborg and you will both receive #he greatest honor in our village: a **MICEKING HELMET!**"

"That's nice, but I, er, have some very urgent business to attend to . . ." I said.





"You're leaving right now, and that's an order!"

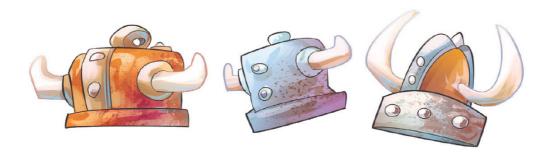
"SO SAYS SUEN THE SHOUTER!"

everyone cried.

My paws began to **tremble** like jellyfish. I was about to run away when . . .

"You can do it, Geronimo!"

It was Thora! She was cheering me on! Then my nephew Benjamin piped up.







"I **BELIEVE** in you, Uncle Ger!"

"GO GET 'EM, Geronimo!" Thea said.

Squeak! My friends and family gave me COUFAGE. I would find Loki. I would face the dragon. And I might even get my first miceking helmet!





Trap and I left Mouseborg.

"That dragon has left us a trail of STINKY drool, RED scales, and roasted trees," Trap remarked happily as we headed north. "This mission will be super easy!"

SUPER EASY?

We were on our way to face a **FIERCE** and terrible dragon with an appetite for micekings. What was **easy** about that?

But we had no choice. We had to **SAUE** Loki Longsight!

We followed the dragon's **trail** until we arrived at the very top of the **TALLEST** of the Hills of Wise Words. We could hear birds







twittering in the trees. Everything seemed peaceful until . . .

GUUUUUUUUUURGLE!

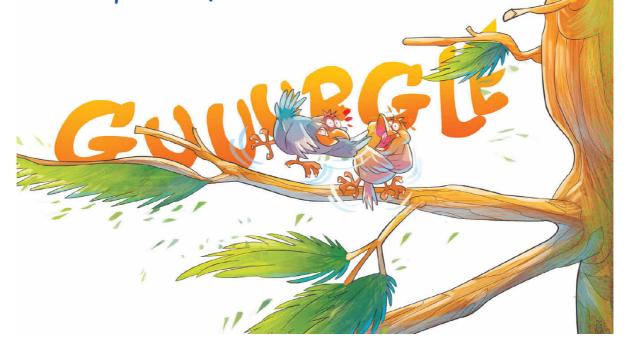
A deep sound echoed through the hills.

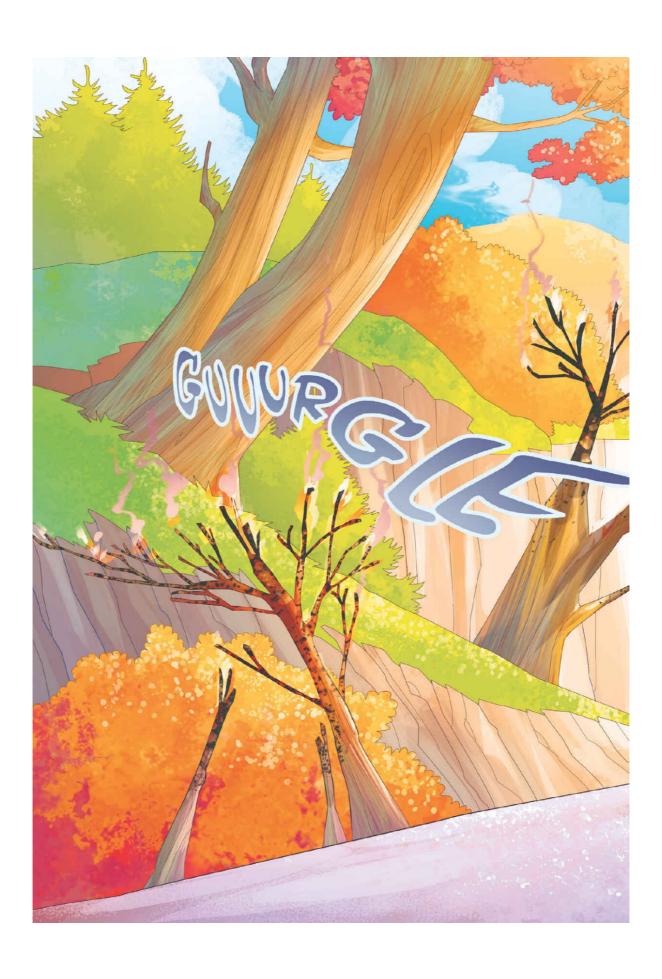
I jumped into Trap's arms.

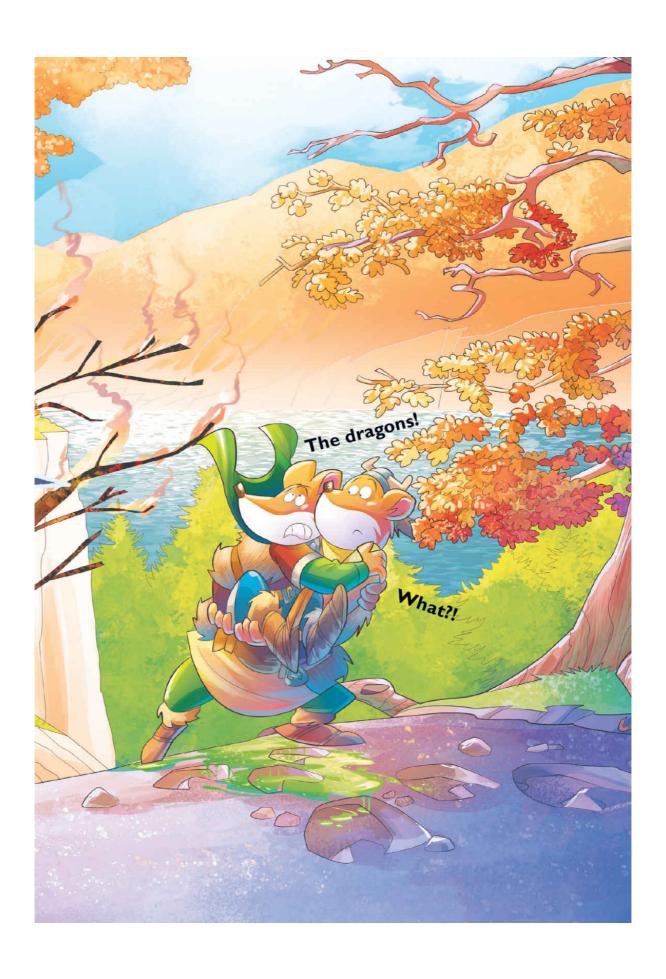
"IT'S THE DRAGONS!" I squealed.

Trap chuckled. "Relax! That's just my stomach. I'm so hungry I could eat STALL CHESS!"

We followed Red Fang's trail down a path. Then Trap stopped. "Look here, Geronimo!"









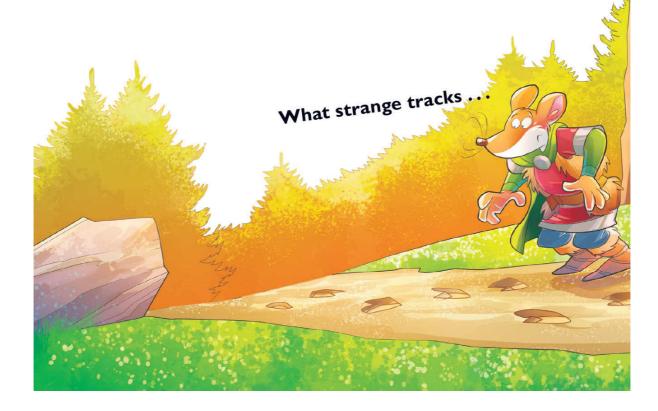
He pointed under a rock to a stash of **fjordberries** and truffles.

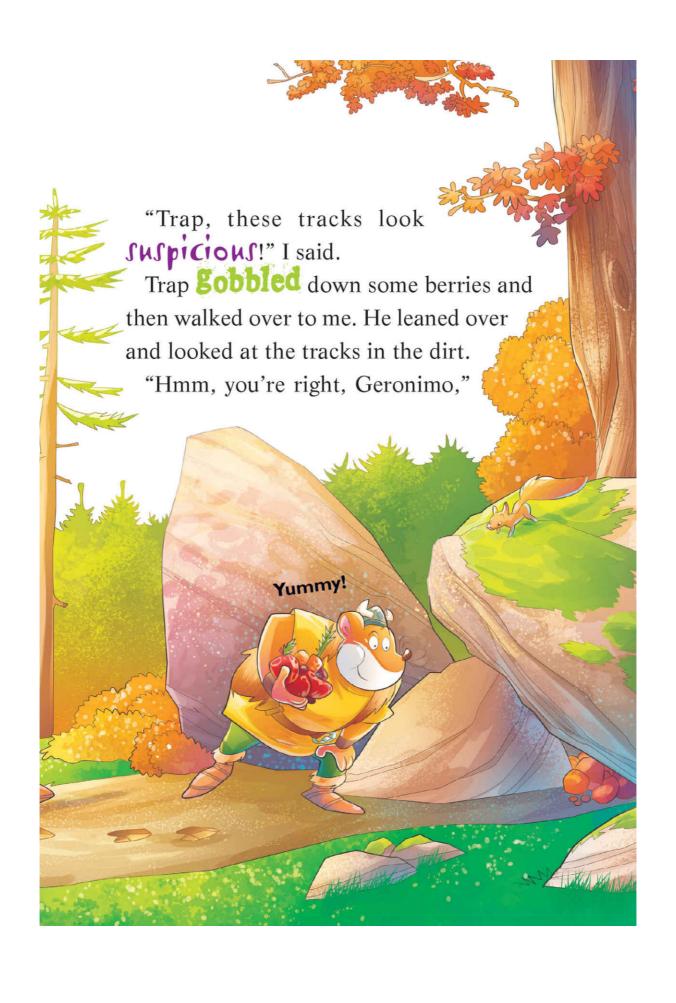
Trap started to **grab** them. "What a find! Want some, Cousin?"

"B-b-but they might belong to someone," I replied nervously. "Leave them alone!"

But Trap didn't listen.

Suddenly, I noticed some **strange tracks** in the dirt.



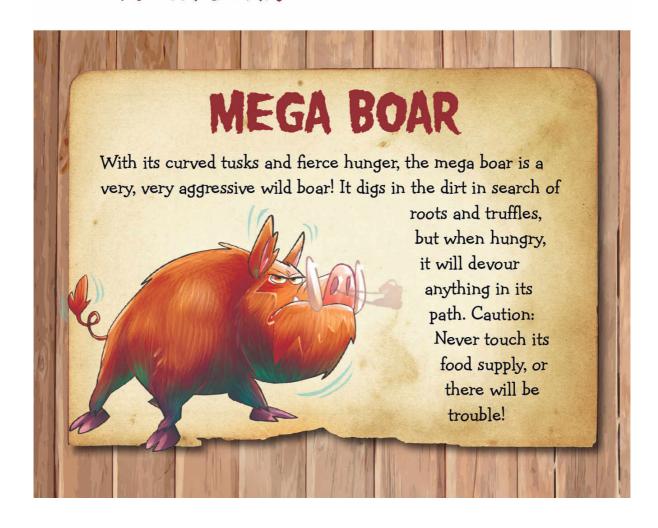




he said. "These don't look like dragon tracks. They're too small."

"That's what **WOTTIES** me," I said. I glanced up at the rocks behind Trap, and my **FUR** stood on end.

"They look like the tracks of a M-M-M-MEGA BOAR!" I stammered.





"How can you be so sure, smarty-mouseking?" Trap asked me.

"I-I'm sure," I stuttered, "because there is one **RIGHT BEHIND YOU!**"

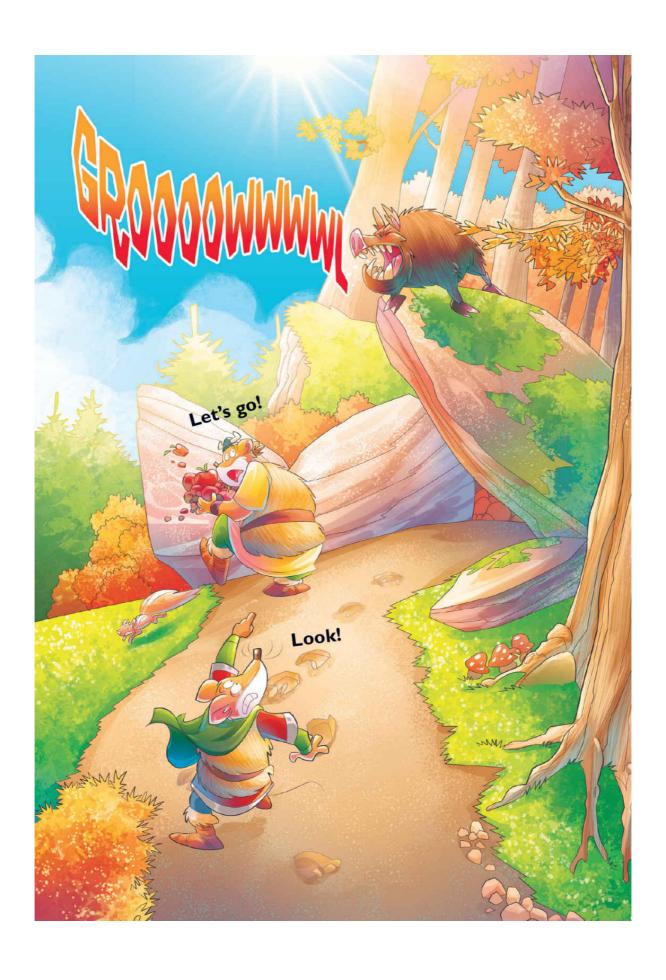
Trap turned to see the HAIRY mega boar staring at us with FEROCIOUS eyes. We had stumbled upon its food supply!

GREAT SALTY SARDINES, we were in big trouble!

"What do we do?" I wailed.

Trap's **paws** were still full of fruit and truffles. "Let's scram, Geronimo! Hold on to your tail and

RUUUUUN!"





WATCH YOUR FUR, GERONIMO!

Trap and I took off at *TOP SPEED* through the hills, followed by the mega boar.

We moved FASTED than a wheel of cheese rolling down a steep hill. We had to! The boar GNASHED its teeth as it ran, ready to GOBBLE us up! Everybody knows that you can't MESS WITH a mega boar's food supply — everybody but Trap, that is.

Then I realized something. "Are you still holding the boar's FOOD?" I asked Trap.

"Of course! It's **delicious**! Want some?" Trap asked.

"Why...huff...do you still have it...
puff?" I asked, out of breath from running.



WATCH YOUR FUR, GERONIMO!

"Pant . . . give it back!"

Trap realized he had no choice. "Good-bye, sweet food!" he cried.

He tossed the food behind him — and it the mega boar in the face! The beast was even **ANGRIER** now.

"FASTER!" I yelled.



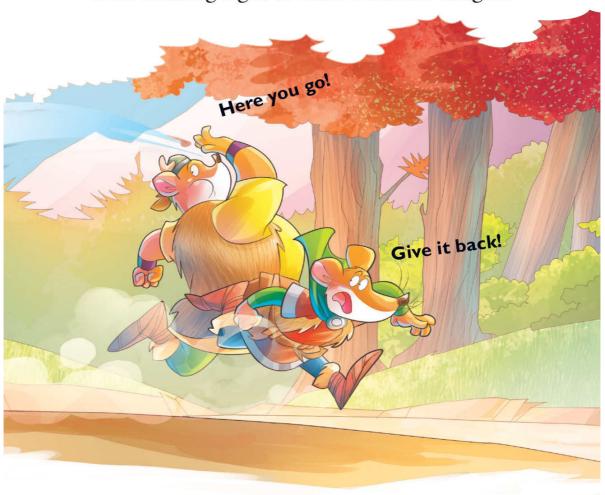
WATCH YOUR FUR, GERONIMO!

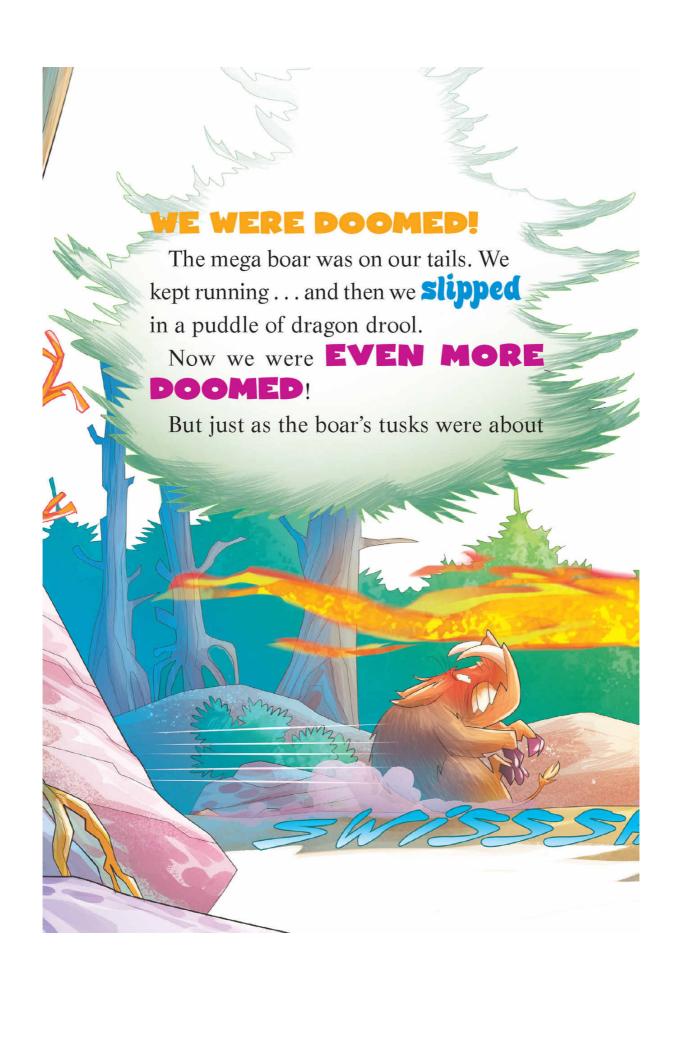


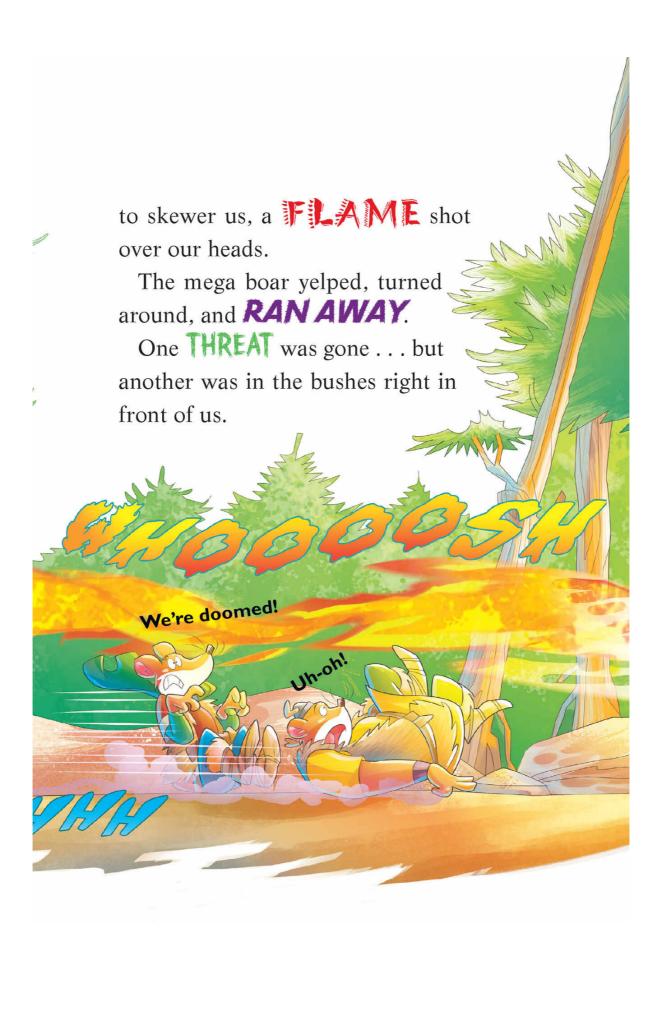
We **ZIGZAGGED** between fallen tree branches and thorny bushes. Then a very **Stinky** smell hit our snouts.

"That smell can only be **DRAGON DROOL!**"
Trap cried.

We had a mega boar behind us, and we were heading right toward a terrible dragon!









WATCH YOUR FUR, GERONIMO!

RED FANG glared at us with his scary yellow eyes!

"Is it you again?" he asked. "Come clossser! That way I can eat you in a sssingle bite!"

I began to **Shiver** from the tip of my tail to the ends of my whiskers. Then I felt Trap pull me by the arm. He dragged me behind a large **TRUNK**.

"Get over here, **SHRIMP**!" Red Fang roared, and he lunged toward us.

Then something **unexpected** happened.

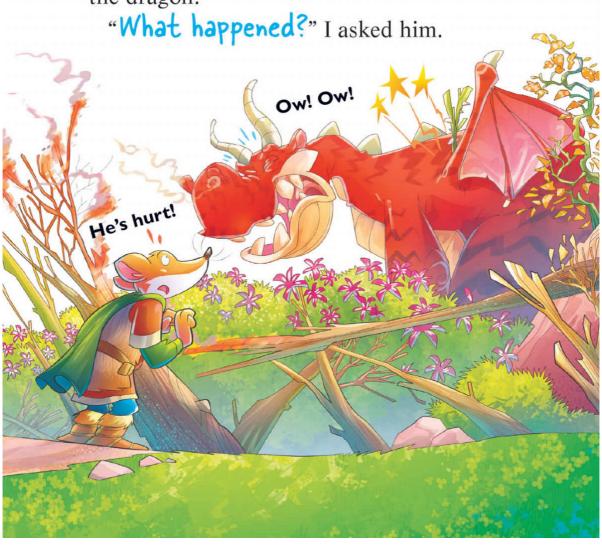
Red Fang suddenly ReareD in pain. Smoke puffed out of his nostrils, and he TOPPLED OVER with a boom.

I **PEEKED** out from my hiding place and saw the problem: One of his wings was caught in a **thorny** bush. He couldn't move or fly.





I took a deep breath. I might not be a **BRAVE** mouseking, but Trap and I had come to save **Loki Longsight**. I knew what I had to do. I stepped out from behind the tree branch and **Slowly** walked toward the dragon.





WATCH YOUR FUR, GERONIMO!



"None of your busssinesss, nosssy moussseking!" Red Fang roared. "I will roassst you in a sssplit sssecond and crush you with my jawsss!"

He spat out a huge flame. I jumped back behind the tree branch to avoid it.

"That's it! I'm done!" I squealed.

Red Fang was **STUCK**. Trap and I could go back to the village without losing our fur.

But if we did that, we'd be leaving behind poor Loki. (Not to mention, I would **Never** get my miceking helmet!)

"You **FAILED** again, smarty-mouseking!" Sven the Shouter would say.

Then it hit me. I was a smarty-mouseking. I could the state of a way to use Red Fang's predicament to our advantage.

I had an idea.

WATCH YOUR FUR, GERONIMO!



I walked right up to the dragon's face and began to squeak.

"L-L-LET'S MAKE A DEAL BETWEEN MOUSEKING AND DRAGON!"



Red Fang sniffed me. "Are you out of your furry head? I could eat you right now!"

Trap JUMPED out of our hiding place. "Geronimo, what are you thinking?" he asked.

"I mu**\$\$\$**t admit, I am curiou**\$\$\$**," Red Fang said. "No mou**\$\$\$**eking has ever approached me like thi**\$\$\$** before. What deal do you propo**\$\$\$**e, shrimp?"

I took another deep breath.

"W-w-well, Trap and I could **FREE** you from the thorns," I began.

Red Fang looked interested. "Go on," he said.





"And then you could t-t-tell us where you've our soothsayer, Loki Longsight," I continued.

"And promise not to **gobble** us up on the spot!" Trap added quickly.

Red Fang began to snicker. Then he snorted. Then he laughed so hard that the ground shook



Red Fang laughed so





hard that he became even more tangled in the thorny bush. He ROARED out in pain.

"GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!"

I knew Red Fang couldn't **REFUSE** our help now. "You can't fly, or even **MOVE**," I said bravely. "Let us help you."

Red Fang scowled. "Very well!" he hissed. "We will make thi**sss** deal. But it mu**sss**t be kept a **sss**ecret!"

I quickly pulled out some parchment and my goose-feather pen (which I always carry with me, like a good scholar) and wrote out our deal.

I signed it, and then Red Fang grabbed the pen in his CLAW and signed, too.

After Red Fang signed, Trap and I carefully





removed the **thorny** branch from his wing.

SECRET DRAGON-MOUSEKING AGREEMENT*

I, Geronimo Stiltonord, will free Red Fang from the branch that hurt his wing.

In exchange, Red Fang of the Devourers of Beastgard will tell us everything he knows about Loki Longsight's whereabouts. And above all, he promises not to gobble up any micekings present.

GERONIMO

* The original was written in miceking runes, but it has been translated so you can read it!







Red Fang GRINNED and stretched out his wings. Then he eyed me **hungrily** as if I were a tasty treat.

HELMETS AND HERRING, I WAS ONE SCARED MOUSEKING!

But I held the parchment agreement in front of me like a STICLD. "You p-p-promised not to Intro us!" I reminded him. "And you must RETURN Loki Longsight to us!"

"I don't know any Loki Long**\$\$\$**ight," Red Fang replied. "The only fresh mou**\$\$\$**emeat here is you two!"

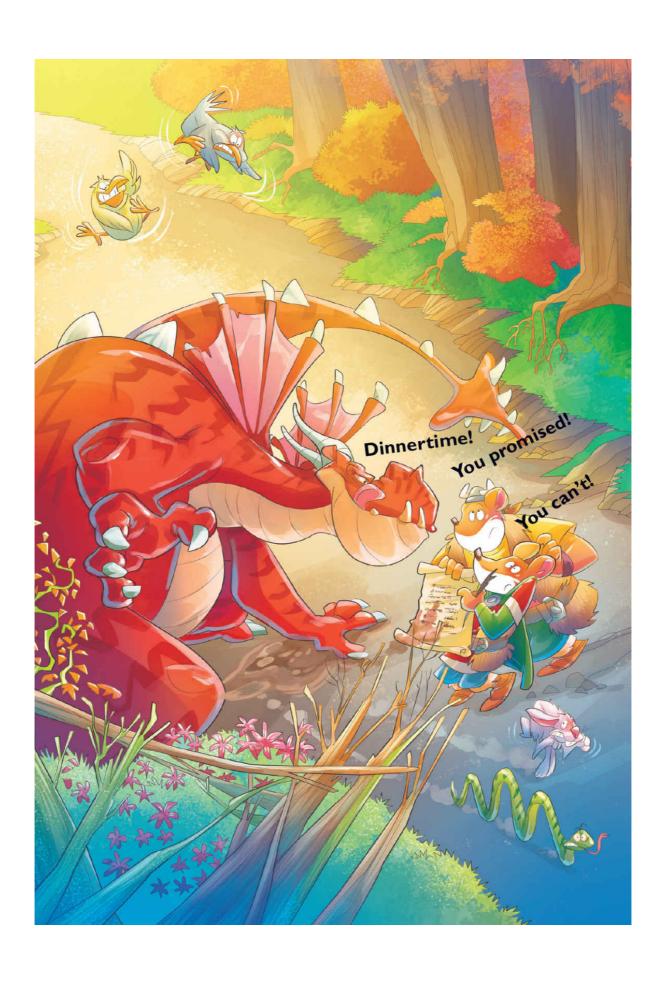
"We found your **DROOL** and one of your **RED SCALES** outside his cave!" I protested. "What did you do with him?"

"That wasssn't me!" Red Fang repeated.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"After you mice attacked usss, I wasss









peppersss," Red Fang explained. "We dragonsss need them to help create our breath."

I shuddered, thinking about how Red Fang's flames had almost roasted me before.

"But they were **TOO HOT**, even for me!" the dragon continued. "I **sss**tarted to **CoUgh** and drool!"

"Then what happened?" Trap asked.

"My eye**sss** were **WATERING** badly," Red Fang replied. "I couldn't **sss**ee where I wa**sss** going, and I flew into a cave."

Trap and I looked at each other. "Loki Longsight's cave!" we both guessed.

"I didn't **\$\$\$**ee a mou**\$\$\$**eking in there," Red Fang said. "I waited until my eye**\$\$\$ \$\$\$**topped watering, and then I FLEW away."

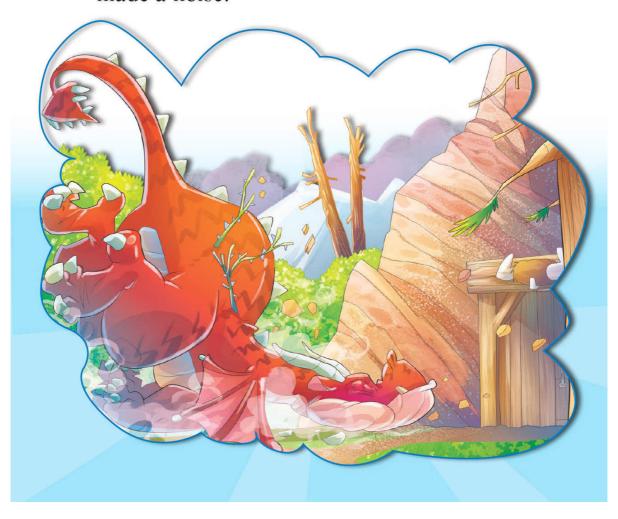




Trap's eyes narrowed. "You mean you didn't take our soothsayer? Or **gobble** him up?"

Red Fang shook his head. "If I had eaten him, would my empty belly be GROWLING like thisss?"

He patted his big **red** belly, and it made a noise:





GUUUUURGLE!

I couldn't believe it. We had been the state of the state

"Becaussse of our deal, I will let you essscape," Red Fang continued. "But I will return to your village with an army of dragonsss. And then I will eat you raw, jussst as you are!"

Then he flapped his wings and **FLEW OFF**.

Trap slapped me on the back. "Good work, Cousin! You saved us from being **toasted** like a cheese sandwich!"

"But we still haven't **found** Loki Longsight," I said. "We should keep







LOOKING for him."

"No way!" Trap said. "We have to go back to Mouseborg and **WARN** the village about the dragon attack."





I knew Trap was right. We raced toward Mouseborg like **LIGHTNING**.

Sven the Shouter started **SHOUTING** as soon as he saw us. "Are you **cheeseheads** back already? Where is Loki Longsight?"

"W-w-we . . . um . . . d-didn't find him, Chief," I stuttered.

"How dare you return with EMPTY PAWS!" Sven shouted so loudly that it ruffled my fur.

Suddenly, the dragon alarm rang throughout the village.

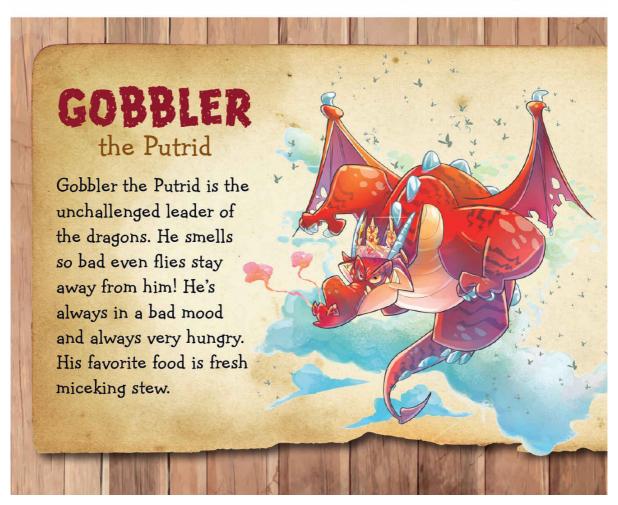




Before you could say **Cheese**, the sky became filled with dragons. Their leader, **Gobbler the Putrid**, flew at the front of the pack.

Gobbler wore the Crown of the Seven Rubies, forged in volcanic lava.

"Look at the sse tass ty miceking





morselsss!" he called out to his followers.

Sven turned to the micekings. "Load the catapults!

AIM! ATTAAAAACK!"

Gobbler called his dragons to action. "Follow me, my winged \$\$\$ubject\$\$\$!

DIVE, DIVE!"

This time, the dragons were **ready** for our miceking defenses. They batted away the **STICKY** mud balls with their tails.

They blew **FLAMES** onto the straw roofs of our houses, setting them on fire!

Some micekings And for their weapons.



Others ran away from the flames. I was headed for the catapults when I heard something thundering behind me that made my whiskers CULL with fear.

GRRRRRROWWWWL!

Shivering squids, that roar was close — TOO CLOSE!

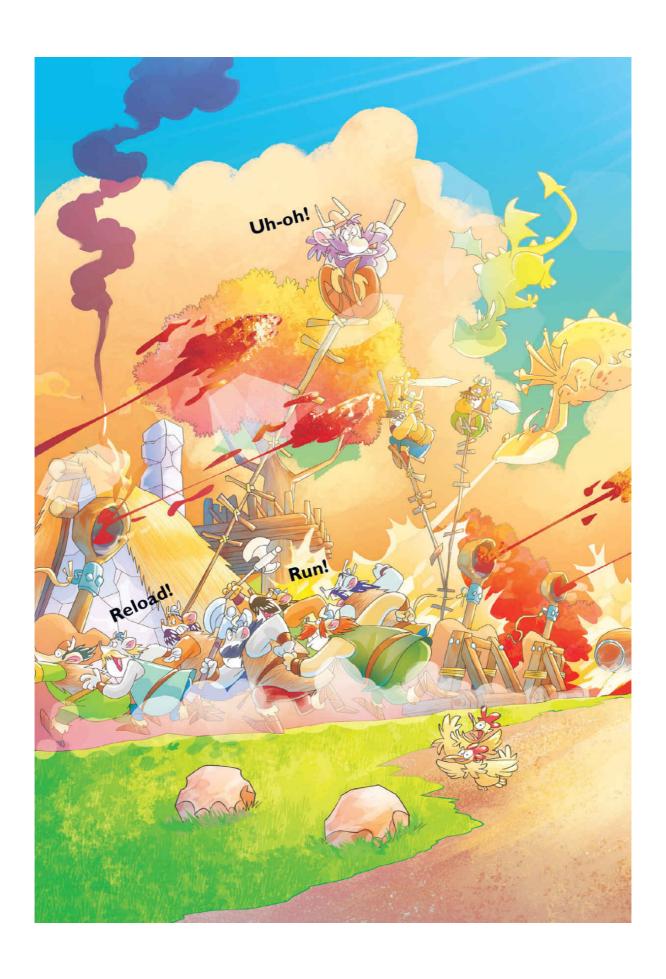
I turned and came face-to-face with a dragon with RED scales, pointy fangs, SHARP claws, and one injured wing . . . RED FANG! He and I had made a deal — but now the deal was off!

Red Fang looked like he was going to keep his promise to eat me raw!

SQUEAKI

He landed right in front of me.

"Ssstay away!" he called to the other







dragons. "Thisss shrimpy moussseking is all mine!"

HORNS AND THORNS!

My whiskers trembled with fright. The end was near! Red Fang was going to devour me, and there was nothing I could do about it. I was doomed!



You Can't Hide from Me, Mouseking!

Red Fang Luncip at me. I was so afraid that I couldn't move a muscle!

Then Trap took me by the **paw**.

"Get out of there, Geronimo!" he yelled, me under the stage.



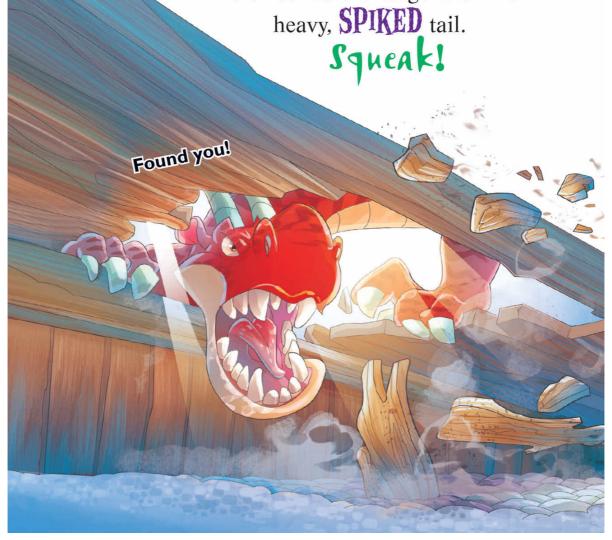


You Can't Hide from Me, Mouseking!



Red Fang followed us. "You can't hide! I will \$\$\$till \$\$\$natch you!"

We **flattened** ourselves against the ground. The dragon plunged his claws into the wooden boards above us. Then he smacked the stage with his heavy, **SPIKED** tail.



YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME, MOUSEKING!

The stage was now full of more **holes** than a slice of Swiss!

We were about to be **fried**, roasted, and **70457ED**!

Trap held me tightly. "I've always loved you, Cousin!" He sobbed. "You're the BRAVEST smarty-mouseking I know!"

This is it, I thought. Good-bye, Mouseborg, my hometown! Good-bye, lovely Thora! Good-bye, miceking world!

A FIREBALL formed in Red Fang's throat, but before he could release it . . .





YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME, MOUSEKING!

"Get out of here, you ugly lizard

Thora! As she bravely ran toward the stage, she took a SHARP shell comb out of her hair and flung it toward the dragon's face. The blow Stunned Red Fang.

"GREAT SHOT, you amazing Shield

Take that!

Mouselet!" Trap cheered.

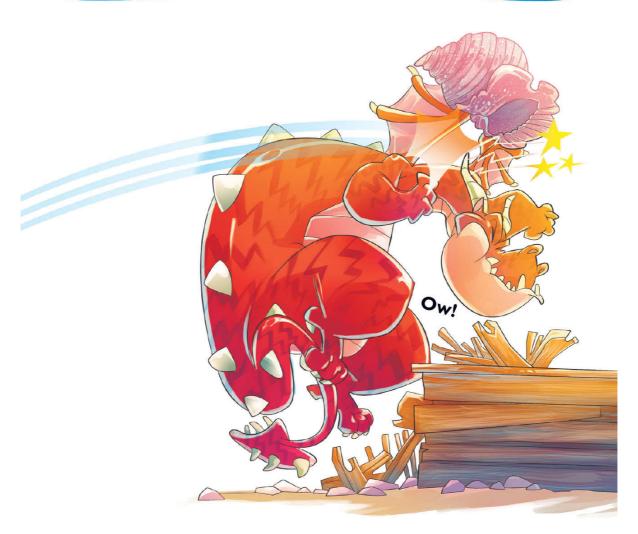
Red Fang flew off, and Trap shivered.

"That was ETET COSE," he said.

I stared at Thora with admiration. "Brave Thora, you've **SAUED** our fur!" I squeaked.

You Can't Hide from Me, Mouseking!





Then I saw that she wasn't alone. THEA, HELGA, and Karina all stood behind her.





You Can't Hide from Me, Mouseking!



And behind them stood all the other Shield Mouselets in the village! They had joined forces to organize an **anti-dragon** defense.

OH, WHAT FABUMOUS MICEKINGS!



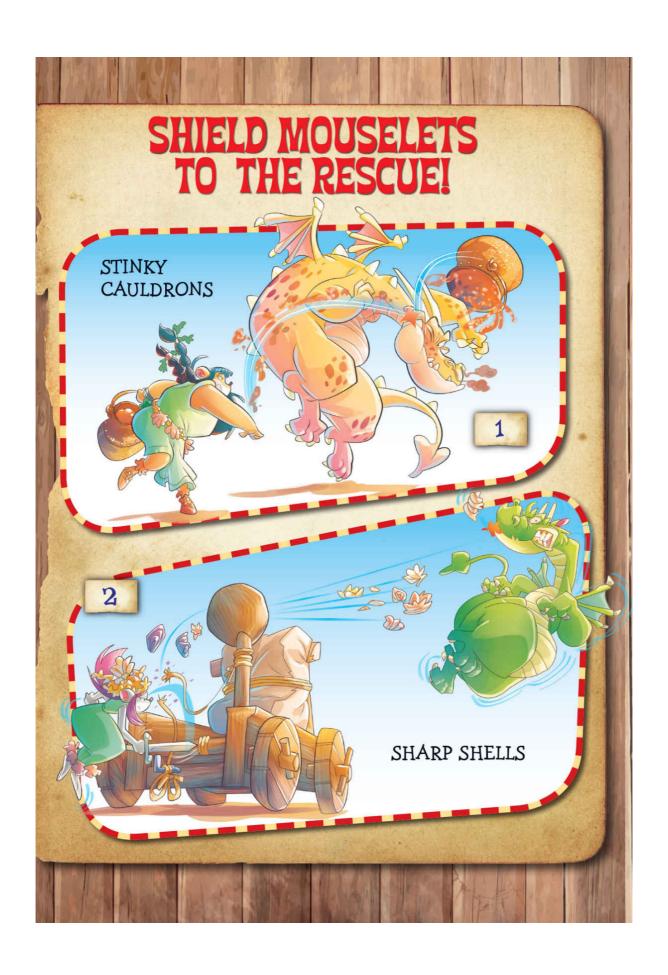
THE CHARGE OF THE SHIELD MOUSELETS

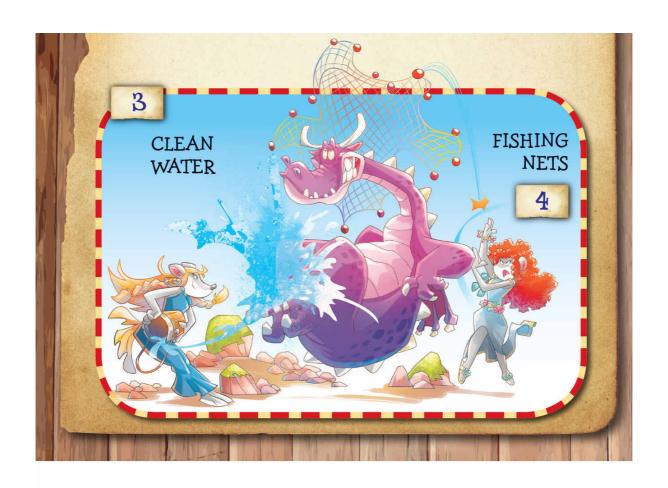
The Shield Mouselets' defense took the dragons by surprise with a charge of unexpected weapons:

- Heavy cauldrons filled with **Stinky** food from the cooking challenge.
- Catapults loaded with **sharp shells** from the shell challenge.
- Buckets of **CLEAN WATER** because dragons can't stand it water washes away their stench!
- Fishing nets that doubled as dragon-catching nets!

SWEET SARDINES!







These Shield Mouselets were a FORCE to be reckoned with!

They flung the cauldrons with amazing force. They have the sharp shells with precise aim. They worked together to stunt the dragons and then CAPTURE them in nets.

It was miceking poetry in action!

Gobbler the Putrid tried to get his dragons in order.





"Dragonsss, get in formation! Clawsss out!" he yelled.

But they could not stop the Shield Mouselets.

"Get out of here, you scaly scoundrels!" Thea yelled.

"Beat it, you lousy beasts!" the others joined in.

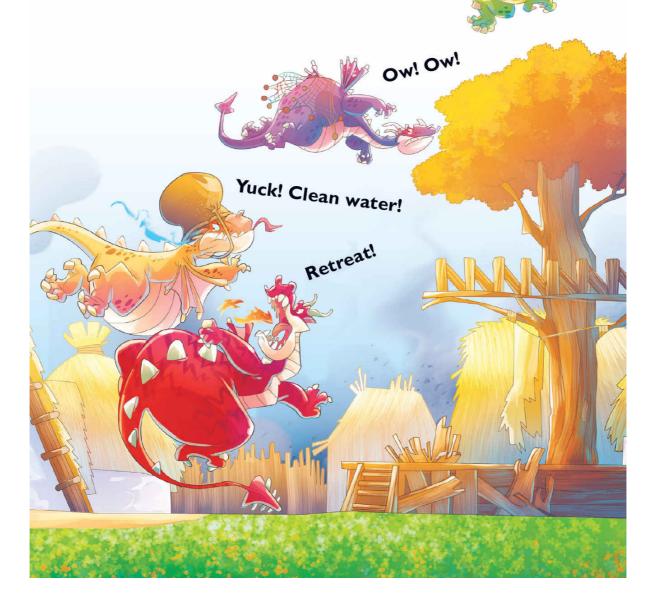
Gobbler continued to call out orders. But his **DRENCHED** and **battered** dragons did





THE CHARGE OF THE SHIELD MOUSELETS

not want to fight anymore. The Shield Mouselets were too much for them! Finally, Gobbler gave in. "RETREAT!" he yelled.





Before flying off, Red Fang fixed his FIERY eyes on me. "You managed to essscape thisss time, mousseking! But next time, I will roasss you for dinner!"

A wave of **relief** washed over me as I watched him and the other dragons over the horizon.

FOR NOW, WE WERE ALL SAFE!



KNOCK! KNOCK! ANYONE THERE?

The dragon attack was over — and it was all thanks to the village's **SHIELD MOUSELETS!**"Rodents of **Mouseborg**, rejoice!"

Sven shouted. "The dragons have fled!"

"**WE WON!**" squealed the micekings.

"Hooray for the Shield mouselets!"

"DOWN WITH THE DRAGONS!"

"Hip, hip, hooray for the Shield Mouselets!"





"We will celebrate!" Sven announced. "My wife, Mousehilde, will prepare a fabumouse banquet and —"

Mousehilde interrupted her husband's speech by **BOPPING** him on the head. "Aren't you **LOKE LONG SIGHT!** We can't celebrate until we find **LOKE LONG SIGHT!** He's still missing!"





Sven pointed at me. "Geronimo, finding him was **YOUR JOB!** Tell us what happened!"

"SO SAYS SVEN THE SHOUTER!"

the micekings cried.

"Well," I began. "First, Trap and I tracked **RED FANG**..."

"00000000000" the micekings exclaimed.

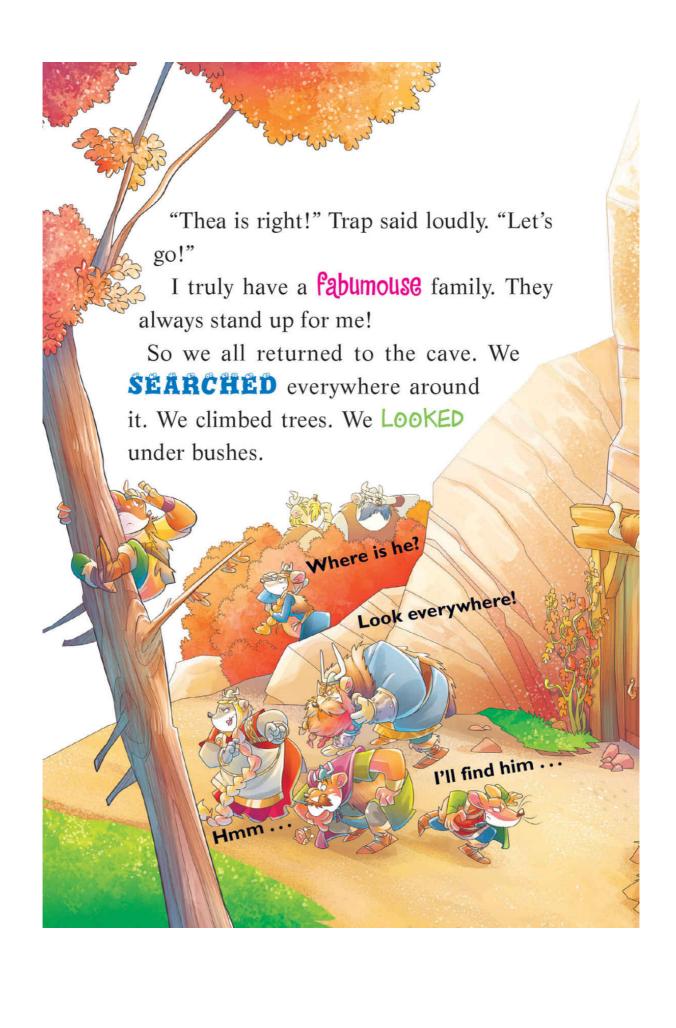
"But we didn't find Loki Longsight or any sign of him," I finished.

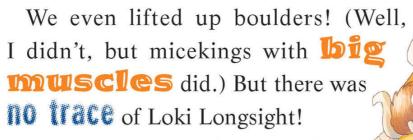
"N000000000000!" the micekings squeaked.

I couldn't tell them about my deal with the dragon. It was a **SECRET!** All the micekings knew was that I had **failed**.

Thea came to my rescue. "Let's go back to Loki's **CAVE** and search for more clues," she suggested.







I put my snout to the ground to look for tracks — and bumped right into the cave's front door.

"OW!" I cried.

Then I realized something. I had just bumped into a []!

"HELMETS AND HERRING, the cave door is closed!" I cried.

"Are you SURE you didn't close it with your snout, smarty-mouseking?" Sven asked me.

"I'm sure," I replied.

"Then who **CLOSED** it?" Sven asked.

My head!







Then it hit me. "Maybe Loki returned to his **CAVE** while we were **fighting** the dragons! He could be in there right now," I said.

There was only **ONE WAY** to find out.

"Loki Longsight!" Sven shouted at the top of his lungs. "ARE YOU IN THERE, soothsayer?"

There was no reply — but then a stone fell out of the window above the door. A piece of parchment was tied to the stone.

"It must be from Loki!" I realized.

"Then **read it**, smarty-mouseking!" Sven bellowed.

I **Unrolled** the parchment and read the words aloud: "The soothsayer is only in on days when the moon is full . . . in months beginning with the letter J . . . and not during mealtimes! Please come back another time."



Have I already told you that Sven is called "the Shouter" because he shouts **VCRY**, **VCRY**, **VCRY LQUDLY**? Well, when he gets **200°CV**, he shouts even

when he gets **angry**, he shouts even louder! And this time he was **angrier** than I had ever seen him.

"Where did you **(1) Capture** to?" Sven bellowed. "Answer me!"

"SO SAYS SUEN THE SHOUTER

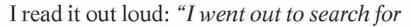
the micekings sang out.

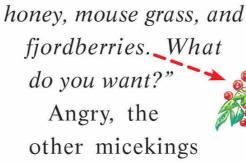
The soothsayer tossed another

the window, with a new message attached.

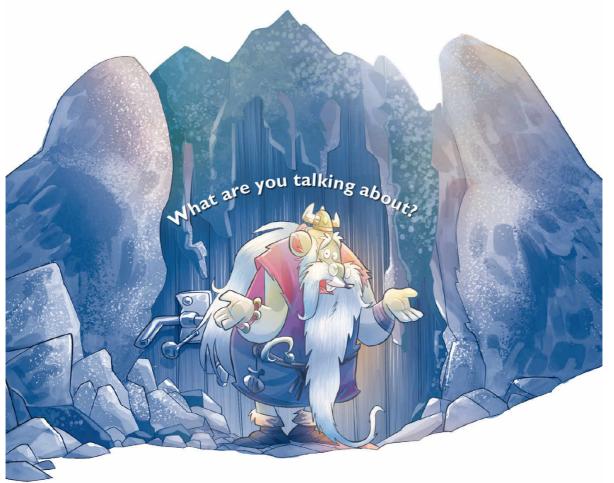
















"Didn't you hear the dragon alarm?"

"Didn't you smell their TERRIBLE STENCH?"

"Didn't you see the FIERY FLAMES?"

Another note FLEW out the window:

"What dragons? I didn't see a single scale.

Not a single fang."

It was no use arguing. Our soothsayer was supposed to be good at **SEEING** the future. But this time, he hadn't even seen what was **RIGHT OUTSIDE** his cave!



AND THE WINNER IS

We returned to the village.

"Loki is found! Let the banquet begin!"
Sven shouted. "Mousehilde will make delicious gloog for all!"

"HOORAY FOR MOUSEHILDE! HOORAY FOR GLOOG!"

the micekings cheered.

Gloog is traditional **miceking stew**, and Mousehilde's is the best!

That night, the village celebrated with a great feast of gloog, Stenchberg CHEESE, finnbrew (the official drink of micekings), and other miceking specialties.





Just as I was about to take my first bite, Sven interrupted me.

"What are you doing, smarty-mouseking?" he asked.

"I-I-I'm eating," I sputtered.

Sven held up a paw. "S+©P right there! First you must announce the winner of the Shield Mouselet Mega Challenge!"

The micekings began to chant.

"CHOOSE A WINNER! CHOOSE A WINNER! CHOOSE A WINNER!"





Crusty codfish, what was I supposed to do?

I tried to think of a way out. "L-l-let's THINK about this, Sven," I stuttered. "Red Fang ate the hot pepper sash that gets awarded to the winner, so there is no

way to . . . "



"I've got an **extra**, Smarty-mouse!" Sven cried, **TOSSING** another sash made of Logi peppers at me.

I turned paler than MOZZARGLA. I had no more excuses!

Shivering squids, I

I wanted to choose **Thora**, who had saved me from **RED FANG**...
But there was also my sister, **THEA**...





And HELGA ...

And Karina . . .

They all deserved to win. Squeak!

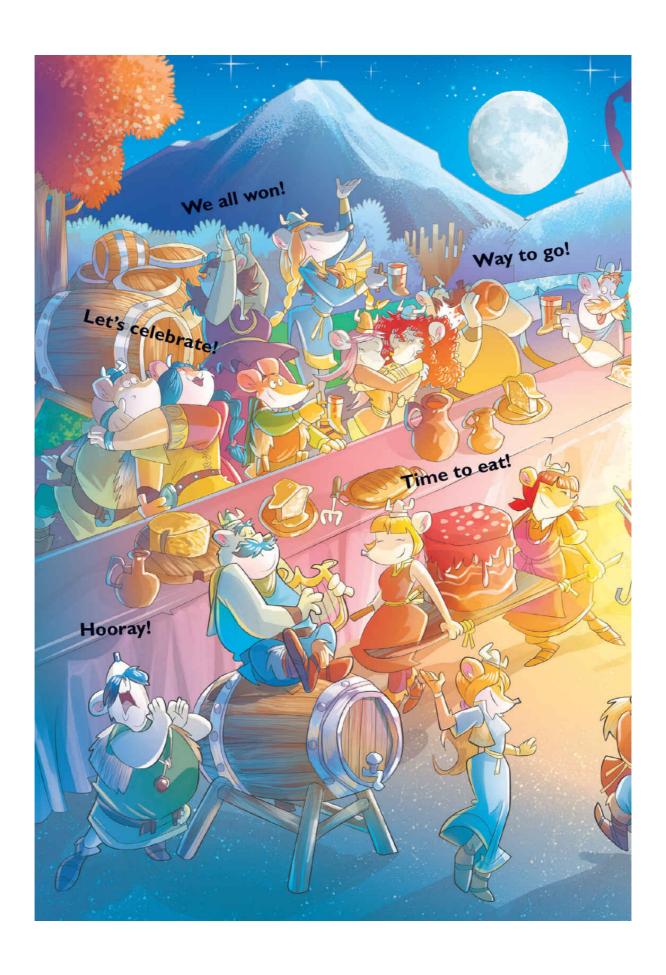
Then Mousehilde walked up and took the sash from me. "Forget it, Geronimo! All the SHIELD MOUSELETS in the village have made a decision. For fighting with GREAT SKILL and saving the village . . . all four are winners!"

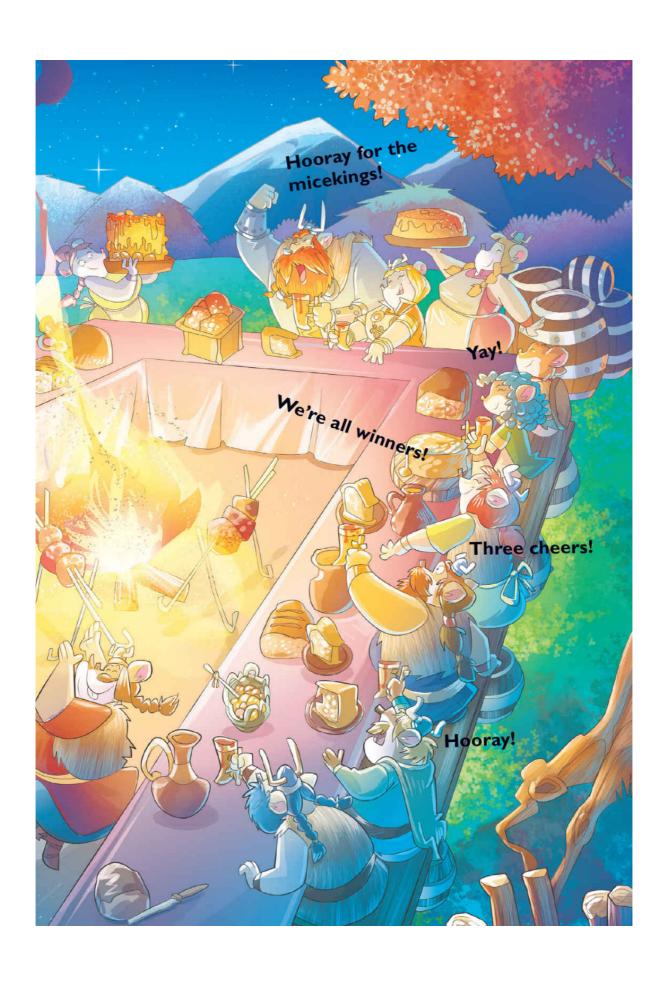
"WE'RE ALL WINNERS!" the contestants cheered.

When the Shield Mouselets make a decision, no rodent **argues** with them! The other micekings began to **Clap** and **cheer**.

"HIP, HIP, HOORAY FOR THE WINNERS!"









Then Sven gave each of the four Shield Mouselets a special **MICERING HELMET** for driving off the dragons.

"SO SAYS SUEN THE SHOUTER!"

the villagers cried.

And then (at last), we were able to eat!

It really was a **fabumouse** feast, and when every crumb was eaten, the micekings broke out into **festive** dancing around the banquet table. By the time I went home and slipped under the covers, I was as happy as a **CLAM** in its shell.

I was so **proud** of the Shield Mouselets for working together. And even though I hadn't earned a **MICERING HELMET** yet, I was still happy. I had made a secret pact with a dragon — and lived to **NOT** tell a soul about it (because



it's a **SECRET!**). So I was content. Plus, I knew that I would earn a **MICEKING HELMET** sooner or later!







Don't miss any adventures of the Micekings!



#1 Attack of the Dragons



#2 The Famouse Fjord Race



#3 Pull the Dragon's Tooth!



#4 Stay Strong, Geronimo!

Up Next:



#5 The Mysterious Message



Be sure to read all my fabumouse adventures!



#1 Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye



#2 The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid



#3 Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House



#4 I'm Too Fond of My Fur!



#5 Four Mice Deep in the Jungle



#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



#13 The Phantom of the Subway



#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



#15 The Mona Mousa Code



#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!



#21 The Wild, Wild West



#22 The Secret of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



#26 The Mummy with No Name



#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



#37 The Race Across America



#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the White Whale!



#46 The Haunted Castle





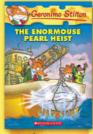
#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Hotel Is Hounted!



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



#52 Mouse in Space!



#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



The Hunt for the Golden Book



#57 The Stinky Cheese Vacation



#58 The Super Chef Contest



#59 Welcome to Moldy Manor



The Hunt for the Curious Cheese



#60 The Treasure of Easter Island



#61 Mouse House Hunter



#62 Mouse Overboard!



The Hunt for the Secret Papyrus



#63 The Cheese Experiment



#64 Magical Mission



#65 Bollywood Burglary



The Hunt for the Hundredth Key



#66 Operation: Secret Recipe



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THE SHIP OF SECRETS:

THE TENTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE JOURNEY **THROUGH TIME**



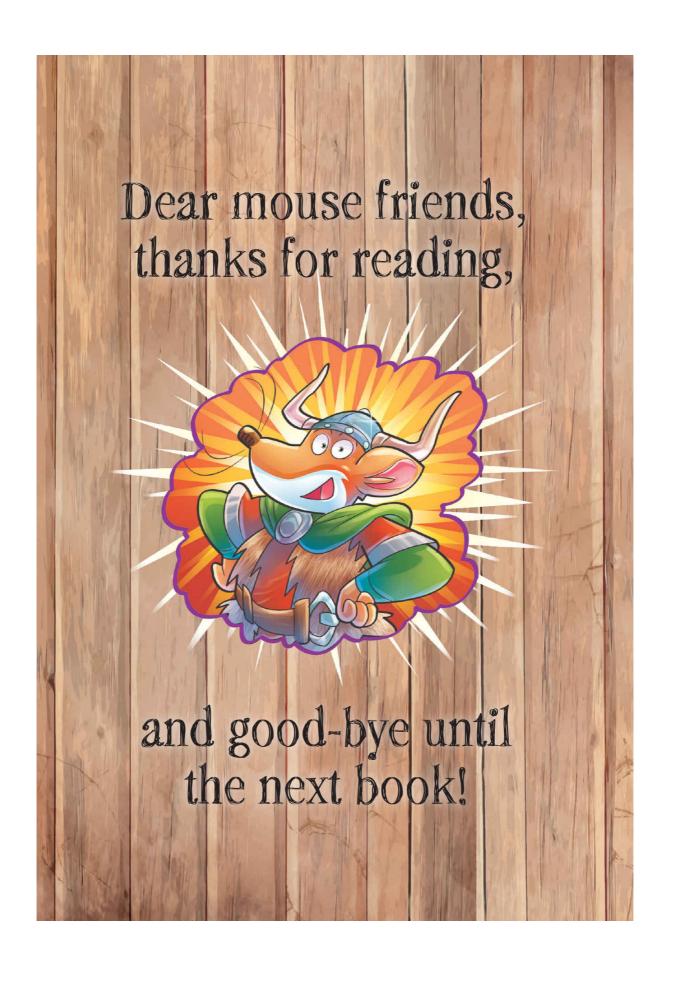
BACK IN TIME: THE SECOND JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME



THE RACE AGAINST TIME: THE THIRD JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME



LOST IN TIME: THE FOURTH JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



WHO IS Geronimo Stiltonord?



He is a mouseking – the Geronimo Stilton of the ancient far north! He lives with his brawny and brave clan in the village of Mouseborg. From sailing frozen waters to facing fiery dragons, every day is an adventure for the micekings!

STAY STRONG, GERONIMO!

Geronimo Stiltonord has been selected to judge the Shield Mouselet Mega Challenge, a competition of female miceking warriors. But all the contestants are so good, it's impossible to choose just one winner! Even worse, since everyone is distracted by the challenge, the dragons launch a surprise attack! Will the micekings be able to defend their home?

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